

services and hospitals that are capable of providing the high level of care needed by trauma victims. Optimal treatment includes rehabilitation programs and follow-up services that enable injured patients to recover as fully as possible.

Premature deaths, disabilities, and economic costs resulting from traumatic injuries impose a high toll on our Nation. The physical and emotional suffering they inflict upon individuals and their families is incalculable. Fortunately, however, through the concerted efforts of concerned citizens, health care professionals, scientists, volunteer groups, and leaders in the public and private sectors, we can reduce the heavy burden of traumatic injury on our society. Trauma is every American's business.

To enhance public awareness of traumatic injury, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 224, has designated the month of May 1990 as "National Trauma Awareness Month" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this occasion.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of May 1990 as National Trauma Awareness Month. I urge the people of the United States, their government agencies, health care providers, and schools to take part in efforts to prevent traumatic injuries and to provide the best possible emergency treatment and rehabilitation programs for those that do occur. I also urge all Americans to support public and private traumatic injury prevention programs. We can reduce the devastating impact of traumatic injuries on our Nation by supporting research into new ways to prevent and treat them, and by aiding those Americans who suffer the physical, emotional, or financial consequences of traumatic injury.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6137 of May 22, 1990

National Maritime Day, 1990

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

For more than 200 years, the members of the American merchant marine and civilian American seafarers have made vital contributions to the economic development of the United States. They have also played an essential role in securing and maintaining our freedom.

The effectiveness of the merchant marine in military operations was first revealed during the Revolutionary War, when our Nation's commercial vessels supplemented the 34 ships of the Continental Navy. These vessels captured or sank some 600 British merchant craft, thereby disrupting enemy shipping and helping to advance the end of the war. Since that time, America's merchant sailors have continued to

demonstrate their courage and patriotism during armed conflicts. Indeed, during World War II alone, more than 6,000 civilian seafarers lost their lives in efforts to deliver essential reinforcements and supplies to our Armed Forces and those of our Allies around the world. Despite the loss of more than 700 U.S.-flag merchant ships, our merchant seafarers successfully transported troops and kept open vital supply lines.

Today, the merchant marine continues to play a vital role in trade and defense. The United States' national sealift objective remains the same: ensuring that sufficient military and civil maritime resources will be available to meet defense deployment and essential economic requirements in support of our national security strategy.

Our new, comprehensive national transportation policy supports this objective and recognizes the need to reform Federal maritime programs in order to enhance both the competitiveness and the sealift capacity of the American merchant marine. In accordance with this policy, the Department of Transportation's goal is to review and restructure Federal maritime programs to promote cost efficiency in the U.S. fleet; to strengthen the fleet's competitive position in the international market; and to encourage necessary modernization and expansion.

In recognition of the importance of the U.S. merchant marine, the Congress, by joint resolution approved May 20, 1933, has designated May 22 of each year as "National Maritime Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation calling for its appropriate observance. This date was chosen to commemorate the day in 1819 when the SS SAVANNAH left Savannah, Georgia, on the first transatlantic steamship voyage.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 22, 1990, as National Maritime Day. I urge the people of the United States to observe this day by displaying the flag of the United States at their homes and other suitable places, and I request that all ships sailing under the American flag dress ship on that day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6138 of May 23, 1990

Older Americans Month, 1990

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Each May, during Older Americans Month, we gratefully acknowledge the many contributions that older men and women have made—and continue to make—to our Nation. With faith, hard work, and an abiding love of freedom, they have helped to make the 20th century the